

Remarks

1. The Examiner has rejected claims 1 to 31 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by newly cited prior art reference Lung et al (US6532230). Applicant has therefore amended independent claim 1 as indicated below with underlining and cross-throughs included by way of highlighting the changes made. Basis for the amendment of claim 1 can be found throughout the specification as filed, but, in particular, page 2, lines 16 to 25.

1. A messaging system arranged to allow a user to send a pre-specified standard message to a destination party mail box, said messaging system comprising a communications network comprising:-
- a) a messaging server arranged to store a plurality of pre-specified standard messages specific to said user;
 - b) an input to the communications network arranged to receive a user input from said user, and
 - c) a destination party mail box; wherein when a specified user input is received from said user at the input, a user selected one of said plurality of the pre-specified standard messages is sent to the destination party mail box from the messaging server.

It can be seen therefore that the present invention defined by claim 1 as amended relates to a system in which a user can create and store for future use a plurality of pre-specified messages of standard form. The user can subsequently select an appropriate one of such messages to send to a destination party's mail box. Selection is made, for example, through the use of a feature key on a user's telephone set (page 7, line 35 to page 8, line 2). A standard message is described as being a message that may contain the originator's details and a request to be called back, by way of one example. The pre-specified standard messages are also disclosed as being recorded by the user for use in different situations. It is

respectfully submitted that one skilled in the art would readily understand the scope of the term "standard" as employed in the term "pre-specified standard message" within the context of messaging systems as being a message which contains basic information which best represents the user's situation at the time the user selects the message for sending to a destination party's mailbox. It is well known in messaging systems to use standard form messages such as "gone to lunch", "out of office", "in a meeting", etc. The present invention enables a user to create such standard form messages but to make such standard form messages specific to the user and to then subsequently send a selected one of such messages to a destination party's mailbox without initiating a call connection to said destination party. Thus, a user can send a pre-specified standard form message specific to that user to a third party's destination mail box even while on a call to another party by way of pressing a feature key on his telephone set, for example. The user is not required to make a call connection to the third party's destination mail box nor required to leave a voice message in real time, i.e. at the time of sending the selected one of the pre-specified standard form messages specific to that user. A further advantage is that, because the user has previously created (recorded) the pre-specified standard form messages specific to that user, the third party receives a message in their mail box that appears to comprise a real time voice message rather than a machine generated standard message as is known in the art.

2. Lung teaches a method of recording a mixed-media message using an integrated messaging server. A user uses a telephone set to record a message such as a voice message which is stored in an attachment area (memory storage area for that user) of the messaging server. Subsequently, when the user sends an email message from a desk top computer, for example, the messaging system determines whether there are any recorded messages in the user's attachment area and, if so, combines the email message and the recorded message to form a mixed media message to be sent to a third party. Thus, the email message comprises the user input that triggers the system to combine the email message and any user

recorded messages. There may be more than one recorded message in the user's attachment area and some of such messages may have been previously provided to the user by other users by way of email attachments, for example.

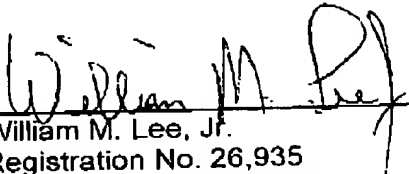
It is clear, however, from Lung that the recorded message or messages whether prepared by the user and/or received from other users are messages that are specific to the content of the email and that are intended to enhance the particular content of the email, i.e. the recorded messages are not specific to the user. Also, the recorded messages cannot be considered as being standard form messages since their content is directly related to the content of the email. Further, Lung neither discloses nor suggests any means by which a user can select which recorded messages in a user's attachment area are to be combined with the email. In fact, it is clear from the disclosure of Lung that all recorded messages in a user's attachment area are combined with the user's (next) email. Thus, while Lung discloses that a user may record a message to be combined with an email in advance of composition of the email, it is clear that such recorded messages are specific to the content of the user's email as opposed to the user himself and are not stored so as to be continuously available for being repeatedly sent to selected destination parties mailboxes in response to user inputs. Consequently, Lung does not disclose all of the limitations of independent claim 1 as amended nor is the present invention as defined by claim 1 rendered obvious thereby since Lung addresses an entirely different technical problem to that of the present invention. Claim 1 is therefore believed to be in an allowable form

3. The foregoing submission is equally applicable to remaining independent claims which are therefore also believed to be in an allowable form.

4. Favorable consideration of claims 1 to 31 is respectfully requested.

March 20, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



William M. Lee, Jr.
Registration No. 26,935
Barnes & Thornburg LLP
P.O. Box 2786
Chicago, Illinois 60690-2786
(312) 214-4800
(312) 759-5646 (fax)